

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

(Parent of a Minor or Guardian With Authority to Admit)

Conditional Voluntary Hospitalization
M.G.L. Chapter 123, Sections 10 & 11

You have the right to consult with an attorney or paralegal concerning the legal effect of conditional voluntary hospitalization before you sign an Application For Care And Treatment On A Conditional Voluntary Basis for your ward. You may consult your own attorney. Alternatively, you may consult with someone at the

_____ by calling _____
local legal assistance office phone number
during regular working hours, or you may consult with the facility's Human Rights Officer by calling extension _____ during regular working hours.

Once you apply for conditional voluntary hospitalization for your ward and your application has been accepted by the facility, you must sign a three-day notice if you decide to withdraw your ward from the facility. You can request help with this notice from facility staff. This facility may not allow you to withdraw your ward from the facility until three days (excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays) after you sign and submit the notice.

During the three days after you submit your notice, the facility may decide that your ward's release would create a likelihood of serious harm to your ward or to others by reason of mental illness. If so, the Superintendent or other head of the facility may file a petition for your ward's civil commitment to the facility for a period of up to six months. If a petition is filed, the District Court will begin the hearing within five (5) business days, not including Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Your ward will have to remain in the facility until the hearing is completed unless the facility decides to discharge your ward before the hearing is completed. Your ward will be represented by an attorney at the hearing.

However, if a civil commitment petition is not filed, your ward will be discharged no later than the end of the third day after you file your three-day notice (excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays).